

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name COLBY MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL AND BATH HOUSE

other names/site number 193-1060-0086

2. Location

street & number 200 E. 5TH STREET ☐ not for publication

city or town COLBY ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county THOMAS code 193 zip code 67701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkert

3-11-02

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

COLBY MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL & BATH HOUSE
Name of Property

THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 1 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 2 | | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

NEW DEAL-ERA RESOURCES OF KANSAS

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: SPORTS FACILITY

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: SPORTS FACILITY

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: ART DECO

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof CONCRETE

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1941

Significant Dates

1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

MURRAY WILSON OF PAULETTE & WILSON, SALINA

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

COLBY MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL & BATH HOUSE
Name of Property

THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .68 ACRES OF 12 ACRES - CITY OWNED PROPERTY

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 4 | 3 2 4 0 0 0 | 4 3 6 2 7 8 0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | | | |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3 | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | | | |

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title LINDA DAVIS-STEPHENS

organization THOMAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY date JUNE 29, 2001

street & number 1905 S. FRANKLIN AVENUE telephone 785-462-4590

city or town COLBY state KANSAS zip code 67701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name CITY OF COLBY

street & number 585 N. FRANKLIN AVENUE telephone 785-462-4410

city or town COLBY state KS zip code 67701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

VAL 10 FEET
 1/2 5-FOOT CONTOURS
 SEA LEVEL

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 1 KILOMETER

24 000

0.7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 70
 RUSSELL SPRINGS 38 MI.

1 MILE

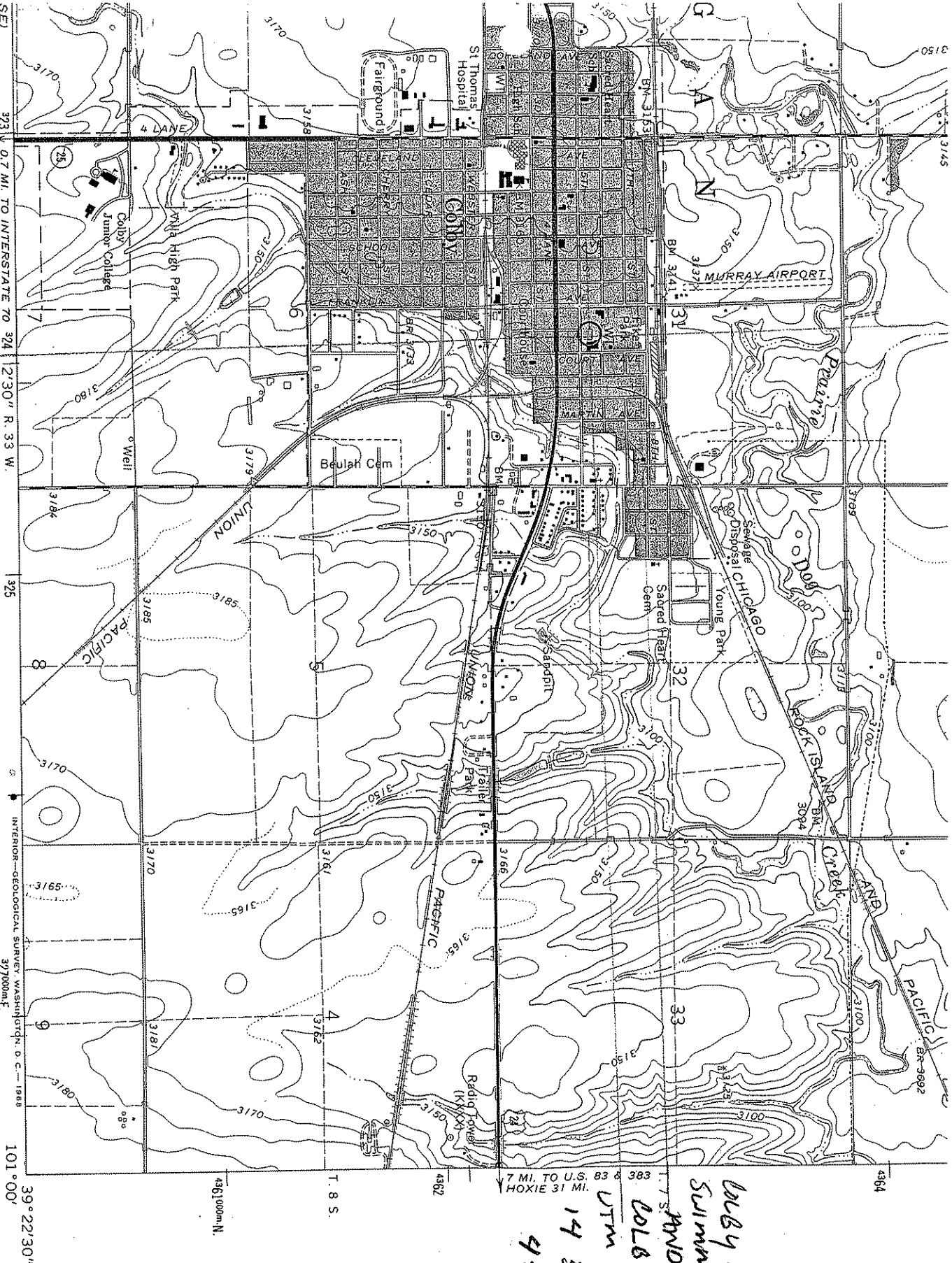
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty
 Medium-duty
 Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route
 State Route

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1968
 327000m E.

39° 22' 30"



Colby Municipal
 Swimming Pool
 and Bath House
 Colby Quad
 UTM Coordinates
 14 324000
 4362780

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House

7. Description

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House (c. 1941) includes a one-story, rectangular Art Deco bath house with a rooftop deck, a rectangular tank with diving towers and a rectangular wading pool. The property is located on the south end of Fike Park.

The Swimming Area is about a 600-person capacity. The reinforced concrete tank has a 8543SF swimming area and a 2168 SF diving area. (Olsson Associates, 1989: P. 1) That was reported in the Colby Free Press Tribune as 150x75 feet . (9/20/39, P. 1) A handicapped accessible ramp was constructed in 1992 at the shallow east end of the tank. The east end level was raised.

Seven ladders are placed around the pool. Lifeguard stations are on the north and south sides. Originally there was one lifeguard station on the north. Four diving boards of varying heights are at the west end of the tank. Originally there were five diving boards. Depth alterations of pool bottom were made for diver safety in 1992.

The walkway for bathers was constructed completely around the pool. The promenade serves as a walkway but leaves little room for a sunning and/or lounging area. In 1992 improvements were done on the Pool gutter system. A chain link guard fence surrounds the tank and concrete promenade. Four sets of floodlights were originally installed for night bathers. (CFPT 5/28/41, p. 1)

The concrete bathhouse has a rectangular floor plan. The bathhouse originally was 27x62feet. The south façade is white with pink and blue bands along the parapet roofline. The original symmetrical façade was cream and white with several ornamental lights on the front.

Three semi-circular concrete steps lead to the main portal. The double glass door entrance is flanked by two vertical projections that reach above the roofline. The portal is set back from the projections. The original double doors were replaced. A semi-circular scallop-design overhang is suspended over the entry. The name of the pool is above the entry "Colby Swimming Pool".

Another set of three semi-circular concrete steps decorates the ground level juncture on the east side of the vertical projection. This pattern is repeated at the west of the vertical projection. On the north elevation either side of the entry are two sets of paired square windows for the men's and women's rooms.

The current façade is asymmetrical. The west end of the bathhouse was modified from having filtration pools to house a filter room. The main entry was off centered when the original filtration pools on the west side of the bathhouse were covered by the filter room addition. The filter room is 13 1/2 x 27 feet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House

Inside the main entrance the Basket Checkroom is still in its original central location to the Men's and Women's shower rooms. There is no longer a footbath (for the prevention of athlete's foot) for swimmers entering the tank area. (CFPT 5-28-41, P.1) In 1992 more privacy showers were installed and bathrooms were made handicapped accessible.

In 1977 pool piping, inlet system and filter renovation were done. The north façade window on the west end of the bathhouse is still open.

A north façade window on the east end of the bathhouse is now enclosed. The original concession room on the east end of the bathhouse was 12x14 feet. The east-facing door is still accessible.

The Spectator Observation Deck on the roof of the bathhouse is now closed off from public use. Spectator deck was gated from use about 1998.

The rectangle wading pool for children is east of the bathhouse. The wading pool is 15x20 feet. A separate chain link fence encloses the wading pool.

Murray Wilson of Paulette and Wilson engineering firm of Salina detailed plans and specifications of the 1941 pool construction. In 1992 Olson Associates made plans for the renovations done by Stephens Construction Co. of Colby.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House

8. Statement of Significance

The Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House (c. 1941) are significant under the National Register criterion A for their association with the Works Projects Administration. The property is included in the New Deal Resources of Kansas Multiple Property Submission. One of twenty pool projects funded by the WPA in Kansas, the reinforced concrete pool and Art Deco style bath house are unique to Colby and Thomas County. The construction of the municipal pool facility represented a major recreational/entertainment development for Colby and the county.

The Works Progress Administration was established in July 1935 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a response to the mass unemployment of the 1930s. Renamed the the Works Projects Administration in December 1938, the WPA work relief programs organized light public works projects for able-bodied, unemployed men who were on the public relief roles. The WPA never employed more than 3.2 million people in any month and its average monthly earnings were far below the prevailing or social security wages. Thousands of miles of roads, over a hundred thousand public buildings including schools, libraries and courthouses, and many recreational buildings and facilities were constructed as a result of the WPA.

The Colby Municipal Pool and Bath House was built with a practical, economic purpose by the City of Colby. Using WPA funding, the Colby Municipal Swimming Pool had an impact on the community's built environment. A municipal swimming pool offered healthy exercise, recreational water activities, and sanitary conditions for people. Practical safety was also a purpose. Colby swimmers drove to Oakley before the town pool was built. (CFPT 7/7/37)

An important part of the WPA recreation program is done in connection with public swimming pools. Many recreation leaders employed by WPA are qualified lifesavers with American Red Cross certificates. In many communities during the summer these WPA recreation leaders conduct "learn to swim" campaigns under the sponsorship of the Red Cross and park department agencies. (Ibid.)

Most municipal pools were located in public parks near other recreational facilities such as baseball diamonds, tennis courts, bandstands and picnic tables. Like the Colby pool, those pools built during the WPA era were constructed of reinforced concrete and had underwater lights. These pools were designed to have continuous recirculation, together with coagulation, filtration and chlorination of the water before it returned to the pool. In western Kansas initial water temperatures for pools were generally very cold, as many of the pools were filled with water from deep wells.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House

Plans to construct the pool were made in conjunction with construction plans for the high school and hospital. The Colby General Park Program planned to couple the Swimming Pool with other local improvements. At the July 13, 1937, meeting of the city council the Chamber of Commerce pool committee (Donald D. Phillips, L. N. Roulier and Joe Gunnels) and the district WPA engineer, Mr. Sterling, discussed the proposed swimming pool project at length. (CFPT 7-14-37, P.1)

The engineer provided preliminary plans and specifications for the pool project, explaining that the WPA would provide unskilled and semi-skilled labor, an overseer, and \$5.00 per man month of labor toward materials. (Ibid.) With the City as sponsor costs for a general program of park improvements were shared 50-50 with federal sources. The engineer estimated that the entire project would cost the city not more than \$15,000, including engineering fees; total cost of the entire project—pools, bathhouse, lights, equipment, etc., would be \$37,300, the remainder of the bill paid through the Works Progress Administration. (CFPT 8-25-37, P.1)

Murray Wilson of Paulette and Wilson engineering firm of Salina detailed plans and specifications of the 1941 pool construction. The plans showed a swimming pool with dimensions of 150 by 75 feet to capacity would care for a 700 person capacity. (CFPT 1-18-39 P.1, 9/20/39, P. 1) The pool was described as "modern in design with rounded corners, and a roped off section for diving in the deep end." (CFPT 1-18-39 P.1) A five spring board diving tower up to 10 feet high was planned. The shallow end of the pool was planned to vary from 2 ½ to 4 ¾ feet deep. The smaller children would use a wading pool 12 x 16 feet from 12 to 18 inches deep.

The bathhouse was described as "a modern attractive structure constructed of monolithic concrete." (Ibid.) The bathhouse would include checking facilities, dressing rooms, showers, toilet facilities, and concession room on first floor with the entire roof to be constructed to accommodate spectators. (Ibid.) Miss Gladys Turner, the first in charge of the pool sold drinks, sandwiches and candy at the Concession. (CFPT 5-28-41, P.1)

A modern gravity sand filtration plant was planned to purify 600 gallons per minute of the pool's 320,000 gallons. (Ibid.) The plant would be located just beside the west end of the bathhouse. (Ibid.) This filtration plant, designed according to the standards of the State Board of Health for water purity, would filter all of the water in the pool eight hours. (Ibid.)

By 1939 the WPA Kansas projects had completed construction of swimming pools in Leavenworth, Holton, Iola, Pittsburg, Coffeyville, Concordia, Abilene, Herington, Kingman, Wichita, Wellington, Hays, Englewood, Protection, Garden City, Ulysses, Sublette, Fowler, and Hugoton. (CFPT 7-12-39 P.1) Pools under construction in 1939 were in Garnett, Marysville, Ellis, Hoxie and Colby. (Ibid.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House

On June 5, 1941, Colby opened what was to be known as the biggest and best swimming pool between Hays and Denver. Single admission was 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children with season tickets priced at \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. (CFPT 6-4-41, P.1) Suits and towels were available for rent at the pool. (Ibid.) H. L. Rippart, state director of WPA operations was the principal speaker at the Pool Dedication in which the High School Band played. (Ibid.) Results of the WPA project were published as follows:

A balance of \$1,082.15 was unused of the federal appropriation for the project. The city voted \$25,000 for its part of the project Nov. 8, 1938; and from the sale of these bonds the full \$25,000 was netted to the city. The city spent for materials \$25,185.96 in construction and equipping the pool, an excess over the bond issue of \$185.96. To offset this excess expenditure the city has salvage material and equipment left from the project which at a very conservative estimate amounts to \$273.50, according to Snell. This salvage material will be sold by the city so that there will be a slight excess in favor of the city instead of a deficit on original estimated costs.

Also included in the city's total expenditures are items totaling \$712.47 which were not included in the original estimate of expenditures made early in 1938 by the city's engineers, Paulette and Wilson, of Salina. A complete analysis of the expenditures in constructing the pool were sent these engineers, and Mr. Snell has received a very complimentary letter from them to the effect that the Colby analysis is the most complete one they have ever received in connection with a WPA project. This analysis will go into their demonstration files as a result of its completeness. (CFPT 7-16-41, P.8)

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House is a unique, local landmark. Some other pools area wide have been razed for construction of different pools. Consideration was given to raze the 1941 Pool and replace it with another pool. In 1992 Olson Associates made plans for the renovations done by Stephens Construction Co. of Colby. These renovations have extended the useful life of the pool, along with annual maintenance and upkeep. Colby plans to maintain and preserve the integrity of this WPA project for future generations to enjoy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House

9. Bibliography

Colby Free Press-Tribune, Microfilm newspaper articles, Research Room, Thomas County Historical Society, Colby, KS

Curtis, Cline, *Thomas County, Kansas, The First One Hundred Years*, Colby, Prairie Printers, Inc., 1973

Historic Preservation Services, L.L.C. "Kansas State Wide New Deal Context Ahead of the Game or Just Holding the Public's Head Above Water?" Unpublished Document. Kansas State Historical Society Contract.

Kansas Government Journal, V. XXVI, No. 5 (May 1940); V. XLV, No. 4.

Olson Associates, Consulting Engineers. *Engineering Study of Municipal Swimming Pool, City of Colby, Kansas* 5 Sept. 1989. Colorado Springs, CO.

Progress in Kansas, V. 6, No. 7 (June 1940) pp. 219- 220.

The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas, Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas with a New Introduction by James R. Shortridge, Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984.

The WPA Guide to 1930' Kansas, Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas with a New Introduction by James R. Shortridge, Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984.

Thomas County Historical Society Files. Colby, Kansas. Documents. Photos.

Wingo, Wayne, *A History of Thomas County, 1885-1964 Kansas being A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty of the Fort Hays Kansas State College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts*, No Date, No Publisher listed, available for sale at Prairie Museum, Museum Mart.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is contained on Lots 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, and A; East 60' of Lake Street, Block 11, Original Town of Colby, KS. The property stands on .68 acres of the twelve acre Fike Park at the south end. The property is bounded by East Fifth Street to the south and by the park on all other sides.

Boundary Justification

The property is located central to the community on the south end of Fike Park, west of the Community Building and east of the Colby City Hall. The nominated property contains all resources historically associated with it.